

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /059 W

-----130096 230512Z /13

R 230113Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2040

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOUNRE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 8940

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AS

SUBJ: NEW ALP PARLIAMENTARY LEADERSHIP

1. IN WHAT IS REGARDED AS A STRONG REBUFF TO ITS LEFT WING, THE ALP PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS ELECTED BILL HAYDEN AS OPPOSITION LEADER AND LIONEL BOWEN AS DEPUTY OPPOSITION LEADER (REPLACING TOM UREN) ON DECEMBER 22. KEN WREIDT WAS UNOPPOSED AS OPPOSITION LEADER IN THE SENATE, WHILE JOHN BUTTON DEFEATED FORMER SENATE DEPUTY OPPOSITION LEADER DOUG MCCLELLAND. TOM UREN'S DEFEAT MEANS THAT THE ALP'S LEFT WING RETAINS NO OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP POSITIONS. THE LEFT ALSO POLLED BADLY IN CONTESTS FOR THE SHADOW CABINET.

2. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS, HAYDEN SAID THAT THE NEW LEADERSHIP'S FIRST OBJECTIVE WOULD BE " TO REASSESS THE POLICY OF THE PARTY TO ESTABLISH THEIR RELEVANCE AND THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF PRESENTING THEM TO THE COMMUNITY." HAYDEN  
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DESCRIBED HIS NEW TEAM AS IDEOLOGICALLY " ABOUT THE CENTER IN A PROGRESSIVE SORT OF WAY." HE ALSO ADMITTED THAT THE ALP NEEDED TO ESTABLISH GENERAL CREDIBILITY.

3. PUBLIC AND EDITORIAL REACTION TO THESE ALP CHANGES HAS BEEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE. MANY ALP SYMPATHIZERS VIEW IT AS THE MOST POSITIVE AND REALISTIC STEP THE ALP

HAS TAKEN TOWARD NEGAINING POWER SINCE THE ALP'S DEFEAT  
IN THE 1975 FEDERAL ELECTIONS.  
ALSTON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION RESULTS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770478-1168  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW ALP PARLIAMENTARY LEADERSHIP  
**TAGS:** PINT, AS  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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22 May 2009  
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